GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1104
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
TOXIC FREE AYURVEDIC DRUGS
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Ayurvedic drugs sold in the country contain dangerous level of lead, mercury and arsenic ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof ;

(c) whether such Ayurvedic drugs are even exported to other countries and bringing bad name to the nation ;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the firms manufacturing Ayurvedic drugs are toxic free?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) Manufacturing of Ayurvedic drugs is regulated by the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and the Rules framed thereunder. The drugs are required to be produced in accordance with the pharmacopoeial standards and the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). There are provisions for punishment if the drugs are found toxic.

(e) Government have taken following steps to ensure safety of Ayurvedic Medicines:

i) Manufacturing Licenses is mandatory wherein the medicines are prepared under the supervision of qualified persons, following proper procedures.
ii) The medicines should be prepared as per Ayurvedic Formulary of India by following the Pharmacopoeial standards.
iii) Medicines are prepared under Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) under Schedule `T` of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules. This is mandatory.
iv) The Schedule E I of Drugs & Cosmetic Rules provides guidelines to use toxic ingredients after proper purification etc.
v) Government have initiated studies through Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Laboratories and Central Council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) to estimate the heavy metals, pesticides and microbial load in the drugs.
vi) CCRAS is also working to study the safety profile of Ayurvedic medicines.